

THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

Mansur's Speech on the Idaho Admission Bill.

IT IS THE MORMONS' RELIGION

That is Being Attached to-day, but to-morrow it will be the Catholics'—The Committee of One Hundred.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—[Special telegram to THE HERALD.]—The debate on the Idaho bill to-day had the effect of filling the galleries with crowds of interested spectators who sat patiently through the four hours' debate, occasionally punctuating the remarks of the different speakers with hearty bursts of applause according as the latter's sentiments found a corresponding echo in their own hearts.

In the discussion this afternoon the Democrats bore off the honors. The Republicans put forward none of their first-class talent, and the affirmative side of the question was argued by such second-rate men as Dorsey, of Nebraska; Dubois, of Idaho; and Peters, of Kansas. The Democrats on the other hand were such brilliant orators as Mansur, of Missouri; Chipman, of Michigan; and Smith, of Arizona. No better evidence of the relative interest felt in the debate could be seen than in the rapid thinning out of the galleries while the Republicans were speaking, and the speediness with which they returned again when the Democrats began to speak.

Mr. Mansur spoke for an hour. He began by saying that while he had no sympathy, nor did he believe that any person on that side of the House had any sympathy, with the institution of bigamy or polygamy, yet "we find in this bill there is a mode of striking at these offenses that is in violation of all the best of our doctrines and tenets of liberty as we have universally understood and enforced them in all times past to the present time." Mr. Mansur then sketched at some length the injustice done to the Mormons in Idaho in the pending bill. It is stated that the reason the Mormons are to be disfranchised is because they vote the Democratic ticket. Continuing, he said: "Just across the line, an imaginary one, as that into Wyoming territory, which you admitted as a state the other day, and while there are not so many Mormons there as in Idaho, yet they are nearly all Republicans, and because of the well-understood fact that every Mormon there votes the Republican ticket you let them vote, and not merely that, but you provided the other day that their wives should have the right to vote, thus giving to every Mormon wife in Wyoming two votes while in Idaho you deny the right to vote even to Mormon men. Let those things be understood as we go along. Let it be understood that it is not a question of principle any where but is in every instance a question of expediency alone for the Republican party. Let it be further understood from forty-eight hours ago the Republicans began to think that they had carried the presidential election of 1888 the whole political world of the United States was filled with rumors of the new programme to be inaugurated by that party. One feature of the programme was the admission of the new states to strengthen the party in the Senate. It was also reported and published that there was to be a revolutionizing of the rules of parliamentary proceedings; that there was to be the unseating of divers members on the Democratic side, and that the Republicans were to fortify themselves in this Congress and pass such bills as they desired, from their standpoint, necessary to be passed, and if new territories were admitted as states, the Republican party, being thus strengthened in the Senate, it would be many years before, under any circumstances, the legislation of this Congress could be repealed or done away with. These are the circumstances that led up to the admission of the youngest of our remaining territories, certainly the smallest in population, and not the best equipped in financial ability to maintain statehood."

If the Mormons, Mr. Mansur said, "were black, they would be protected under the fifteenth amendment to the constitution. But," he added impressively, "they are white and Democrats, and so they are your victims."

Quoting Judge Wilson, the speaker showed that out of 5,000 Mormon voters in Idaho not more than 2 1/2 per cent. were bigamists or polygamists, and that of the total of 25,000 Mormons in the territory, bigamists and polygamists were scarcely one-half of 1 per cent. Mr. Mansur next quoted Judge Carlton, of the Utah commission; Dr. Miller the editor of the Omaha Herald; Representative Struble, of Iowa; Bayard, Taylor, Chief Justice Waite and others, to show the thrift, industry and general morality of the Mormon people. He then proceeded to ask the questions, "Why on account of the few men who are engaged in the practice of bigamy or polygamy, whether the number be one hundred and twenty-five, as Mr. Wilson estimates in the whole territory of Idaho, or whether it should be greater, should we insert the penalty of disfranchisement upon every male adult of that church, more because he is a Mormon? And why should we refuse him even the poor, pitiful right of purging himself by an oath in which he shall swear that he does not believe in bigamy? For gentlemen, please observe that in said section, which it is sought to engraft into the constitution of Idaho, there are quite a number of provisions whereby a man is declared to have the right of trial by jury and shall not suffer the penalty of disfranchisement until after his conviction, whereas offenses connected with the Mormon church are taken outside of the list of ordinary offenses and a man cannot purge himself by his own oath that he does not believe in bigamous or polygamous practices, does not countenance them, and does not assist in their perpetration. When that is done, he cannot complain, he is deprived of his privileges if convicted. That is the universal law in all the states and it is correct. I have been at the trouble of collecting the law from all the several states, and there is not to be found in one of the states of the union any different law than that they must be first convicted of crime before you can degrade a

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Mr. Mansur, quoted at length from the pamphlet, one of the paragraphs being as follows: "We have no hesitation in affirming that the oath of allegiance to our government taken by Romanists and by which they have obtained the rights of the ballot, of citizenship and of office amounts to nothing if they are good Romanists and has no binding obligation where the church of the pontiff requires it to be disregarded. We do not hesitate to say as a measure for the nation's self protection, that no person who conscientiously believes that the pontiff should be allowed to participate as a citizen in either holding an office or casting a ballot. The United States supreme court has decided that the law of one of our states disfranchising Romanists is constitutional, on the theory that the man who takes the oath the Mormons are required to take cannot be a good citizen. Why should not this principle be applied to those who confess allegiance to the papal hierarchy?"

Continuing, the speaker said: "This is the address now being issued by a committee of 100 citizens of Boston. I think I can fairly say to the Catholics that the Mormons are stricken down by this bill is to be carried into effect in this way, thus embodying the dominant majority, it will not be long before we shall find certain denominations and certain classes of people in this country inaugurating a crusade against the Catholic because he is a Catholic." A vote will be reached on the bill at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

The Debate on the Idaho Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Baker, of New York, called up the bill authorizing the construction of a bridge and approaches at New York city across the Hudson river, to regulate commerce in and over such bridge between the states of New York and New Jersey, and to establish such bridge as a military and post road. The bill passed.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Idaho admission bill, and Dorsey, of Nebraska, in charge of the bill, made a speech in its favor. "The only objection to the admission of Idaho," he said, "came from the Mormons. They protested against the provision of the constitution which disfranchised bigamists and polygamists. They said that the members of an association which encouraged bigamy."

Mansur criticised the provision of the constitution disfranchising the Mormons and said the real reason was that the Mormons voted the Democratic ticket. Dubois earnestly advocated the admission of Idaho. Criticising the minority report, he said it proposed that bigamists and polygamists should vote in Idaho. What right had the members of the minority to impose upon Idaho conditions which never before had been imposed upon any state coming into the union. There were, he said, in Idaho a *gens homo*, known as "Jack Mormon" who, while denouncing polygamy and bigamy, obeyed the law. He said that the Mormon priests were the gentlemen from Illinois (Springer) to live in Idaho, he would probably be known as a "Jack Mormon." He closed his discussion of the minority question by saying the issue was fairly joined: Would Congress sustain this reasonable and laudable institution, or would it hold up the hands of the brave pioneers who had come to Idaho, who on his proposition had abandoned all parties and united in saying, "We earnestly desire statehood, but we desire it only on the terms of the American constitution."

Smith, of Arizona, earnestly denounced the action of the committee on territories in failing to report a bill for the admission of Idaho. His people had been unfairly treated. Arizona had every qualification for statehood, but the bill for her admission was smothered in committee, simply because she had seen fit to send a Democratic delegation to Congress. The territory of New Mexico, with a population greater than Idaho and Wyoming combined, was also kept in the background. Was it because the Democratic delegation, which started wrong in his youth and had become a Democrat?

Chipman, while favoring the admission of territories, criticised the proposed constitution of Idaho as an invasion of sacred individual and religious rights. Polygamy was a crime which should not be tolerated, but the constitution closed to the accused the courts—the only asylums against passion and corruption.

Perkins spoke in favor of the bill, and pending further debate, the matter went over until to-morrow. Adjourned.

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New York, April 2.—The Herald's Ottawa, Ont., special says: I am credibly informed that the Behring sea negotiations at Washington have not advanced beyond the preliminary stages of discussion, and that the Behring sea is part of the high seas, free to the pursuit of sealing and which can only be restrained by international agreement or treaty. The reasonable compensation must be made by the United States for past and mistaken disturbance of British sealing operations there.

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